



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION
FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 17, 2025
COMBINED BOARD AND COMMITTEES MEETING

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) held a public Combined Board and Committees meeting on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, in person and via MS Teams at 10:30 AM ET in Reston, Virginia. A video recording and transcript of the meeting, as well as the archived presentation, are available on the FirstNet Authority website: [FirstNet.gov](https://www.firstnet.gov).

Acting Board Chair Mike Adkinson thanked former Acting Board Chair Renee Gordon for her service.

Roll Call

Mike Adkinson (“Acting Chair”), Billy Bob Brown Jr., Damon Darsey, Alexandra Fernández Navarro, Erik Gaull, Sean McDevitt, Warren Mickens, Jocelyn Moore, Jeffrey Norman, Rasheid Scarlett, and Trisha Wolford. A quorum¹ was present for the Combined Board and Board Committees meeting.

Conflicts Statement and Reminder

Prior to participating in the FirstNet Authority Combined Board and Board Committees meeting, Board Secretary Jennifer Watts sent Board members the meeting agenda and Conflict of Interest guidance provided by the Ethics Law and Program Division of the Department of Commerce, Office of General Counsel that applies to all Board members. All Board members responded prior to the meeting that they did not have any conflicts of interest and did not need to recuse themselves from participation in any portion of the meeting, and the meeting proceeded.

Votes Taken

Prior to proceeding with the business of the day, Acting Chair Adkinson requested a motion to approve the minutes from the August 18, 2025, Special Virtual Combined Board and Finance and Investment Committee meeting. Damon Darsey made the motion. Warren Mickens seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously voted to approve the meeting minutes and to make them available to the public at the end of the meeting.

Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) Update

PSAC Chair Chris Lombard recapped the in-person PSAC meeting held at the 5x5 conference in June, and bi-monthly virtual meeting held in August. A new representative has filled a PSAC vacancy for the Inter-Tribal Emergency Management Coalition, which further strengthens the expertise available to the team.

¹ All attendees were in-person. Office of Management and Budget designee Mark Calabria was not present.

The PSAC will stand up two working groups, one to recommend best practices for engaging with public safety-facing information technology offices and officers, and a second to develop updated materials to facilitate productive engagement on site planning. Over the coming months, the PSAC will collaborate with the FirstNet Authority on investment issues related to coverage enhancements and network evolution. The PSAC Tribal Advisory Group will continue to conduct tribal engagements, including coverage enhancement workshops with a strictly tribal audience next month.

Advocacy Committee Update

Committee Chair Trisha Wolford highlighted engagements and collaborations with public safety from the third quarter of FY2025 that reached more than 11,000 stakeholders. The FirstNet Authority Boulder lab hosted 15 visitors during the quarter, which is unusually low due to facility upgrades. The public safety community provided almost 300 feedback items that included operational needs, capability gaps, coverage, reliability, and FirstNet user cases. During routine engagements and over 30 coverage enhancement workshops, the team captured comments regarding the successful implementation of cell phone booster pros and talked about specific coverage needs. The FirstNet Authority also received some positive feedback about network reliability during hurricanes and other natural disasters. An additional 14 coverage enhancement workshops are already scheduled.

The FirstNet Authority facilitated 12 different sessions at the APCO conference. Erik Gaull reported that numerous APCO professionals spoke on the reliability of FirstNet and the serviceability that it provided to 911 professionals.

Acting Chair Adkinson, CEO and Executive Director Cannon and FirstNet Authority staff attended the International Association of Fire Chiefs' (IAFC) Fire Rescue International Conference. Senior leaders spoke with the IAFC Board, and the team engaged with fire and EMS service leaders from across the nation and internationally. Acting Chair Adkinson congratulated Chief Wolford on her recent election as the IAFC's President.

Board members and staff from the FirstNet Authority and FirstNet AT&T participated in several events in North Carolina and South Carolina. Chief Wolford, U.S. Representative Richard Hudson, and Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Technology Ariel Roth attended a groundbreaking event for infrastructure upgrades to the cell tower sites throughout Alamance County. A similar event celebrating the cell site delivering improved connectivity in Bryson City and rural Swain County in North Carolina was attended by U.S. Senator Ted Budd. Another tower engagement in rural Marion County, South Carolina, was attended by U.S. Representative Russell Fry. Damon Darsey thanked Sheriff Wallace for hosting and providing candid feedback.

Finance and Investment Committee Update

Committee Chair Sean McDevitt briefed that during the first 11 months of FY2025, the FirstNet Authority obligated a cumulative total of \$76 million, which is well within the forecasted parameters of the 2025 budget. The FirstNet Authority continues to be financially prudent and fiscally responsible with operational funds to maximize financial resources available for investment in the network to expand coverage and to evolve the technology.

Programs and Future Planning Committee Update

Committee Chair Rasheid Scarlett stated that the FirstNet Authority continues to see strong momentum in the evolution of the FirstNet network through investments and other projects. Efforts have included urban, rural and tribal areas in the states and territories.

The FirstNet Authority is working to finalize investments to enable the FirstNet network to support satellite to device technologies and continues to focus on preparation for the launch of a new 5G standalone core, ongoing enhancements to FirstNet Central, and ongoing mission critical product development.

Assets will continue to be mobilized and staged in preparation for hurricanes. In addition to deployables, the FirstNet team stood up additional network capacity, including a rapid macro site deployment to support long term public safety operations. The response operations group continues to connect state and local public safety responding to wildfires.

FirstNet Authority continues to search for better ways to meet public safety's communications needs by using innovative trials, like the recently completed maritime and air to ground trials and pending trials looking at ways to leverage artificial intelligence for various public safety use cases. Additionally, the team is looking at ways to continue to innovate with deployable form factors.

Closing Remarks

CEO and Executive Director Cannon expressed gratitude for former Acting Board Chair Renee Gordon's service with the FirstNet Authority. Mr. Cannon recapped that over the past year, the FirstNet network was used widely across the country in response to weather events, emergencies, and planned events. The FirstNet Authority will continue to conduct coverage workshops and seek ongoing feedback from public safety.

He also addressed the recent reports from the Office of Inspector General (OIG) and noted that NTIA and the FirstNet Authority have taken corrective actions to address the issues identified in the reports and expressed appreciation of the OIG's continued oversight of the FirstNet Authority and the NPSBN. The FirstNet Authority will continue to drive forward; innovating and evolving the network so it meets public safety's needs.

Board Adjourned

Acting Chair Adkinson requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alexandra Fernández Navarro made the motion, Jeffrey Norman seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.